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TELLOFAX 14

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 26 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Plans for a New Canal in Narva

NO. OF PAGES 1.

25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. The harbor installations of the town of Narva (59°28'N/28°11'E), Estonian S.S.R., which were located in the northern section of the town and on the eastern bank of the Narva River were partially destroyed during the war. They had been repaired by the end of 1946.
2. Within the town, the Narva River was closed by two weirs so that no continuous shipping traffic was possible. All goods which are destined to upriver places were unloaded in the northern harbor and sent by truck to the southern harbor where they were transloaded into barges.
3. A by-pass canal, connecting the northern and southern harbors, was planned in 1948 to avoid this double transshipment. It was to be 5 km long and was to form a bond around the town to the east. A lock was planned to surmount a fall of about 10 meters.
4. The construction of the canal began in early 1949. Excavating operations from both ends of the canal were under way in October 1949. The line of the canal could not be determined because the excavation was only in its initial stage at the time.
5. The lock is to be located about 1 km northeast of the northern harbor. Its site was staked out and surveyed in the summer of 1948. *

* Comment. The canal with the lock would render unnecessary the constant transshipment of goods. Technical difficulties with the construction will not be encountered since the ground is almost level. It is difficult to say whether the canal is an economic necessity. The turnover of goods in the harbor of Narva is not very considerable.

Document No.

No Change in Class.

☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS

Auth.: KR 70-2

Date: 05 SEP 1978

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